

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-7, 10-13, 24, 26-30, 33-36, 47 and 51 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 3-7, 10-13, 24, 26-30, 33-36, 47 and 51 have been rejected.

Claims 1, 24 and 47 have been amended.

Unless otherwise specified in the discussion below, Applicants have amended the above-referenced claims in order to provide clarity. Applicants submit that these amendments find support at least at page 66 of the Application as filed.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 3-7, 10-13, 24, 26-30, 33-36, 47 and 51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly being unpatentable over Robertson et al., Pre-Grant Publication No. 2005/0050477 in the view of Official Notice (hereinafter referred to as "Robertson"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent Claims 1, 24 and 47 each contain limitations of substantially the following form:

receiving a search request comprising search criteria from a first user, wherein
the search criteria comprises at least one search category; and
in response to said receiving the search request,
determining the first user's organizational identifier, and
performing a search of one or more databases for records corresponding to
the search criteria wherein
the first user's organizational identifier corresponds to an
organization with which the first user is associated,
an organizational identifier of a plurality of members of the
organization is identical to the first user's organizational
identifier, and
said performing the search comprises

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selecting an organizational set of records that match the
first user's organizational identifier from the one or
more databases, and
selecting a subset of records matching the search category
from the organizational set of records.

See, e.g., Claim 1 (as amended). Applicants respectfully submit that the cited sections of Robertson fail to disclose all of these limitations of the independent claims.

Applicants submit that the “receiving a search request” limitation of independent claims 1, 24, and 47 is not taught or suggested by Robertson. Furthermore, Robertson also fails to teach or suggest “the search criteria comprises at least one search category” limitation of independent claims 1, 24 and 47.

The Office Action equates the “business units” and “an employee name” of Robertson's Figures 3 and 4 with the search category of claim 1, while also equating the “management” of Figures 3 and 5 with the organizational identifier of claim 1. *See* Office Action, p. 2. Applicants respectfully submit that both “business units” and “management” are options that can be selected from Robertson's hierarchy selection area 306, and are not search categories, as that item is used in the claims.

The Office Action first asserts that “business units” and “an employee name” of Robertson's Figures 3 and 4 are analogous to the search category of claim 1. Then the Office Action equates the “management” of Robertson's Figures 3 and 5 with the organizational identifier of claim 1. Even if the Office Action's first assertion was true (a point Applicants do not concede), the first assertion of the Office Action contradicts with the Office Action's equating of “management” with the claimed organizational identifier. The contradiction is that Robertson discloses that both “business units” and

“management” are options that can be selected from hierarchy selection area 306 (Robertson, ¶ 48). Thus, instead of option “business units,” if the option “management” was selected and combined with “an employee name” to present a search category, such a combination renders the search category indistinguishable from the organizational identifier. The claims provide the search category as separate and distinct from the organizational identifier.

The above contradiction is clearly illustrated in Robertson’s Figure 9. Robertson Figure 9 illustrates the “management” and “an employee name” as a search category. If “management” is, as proposed by the Office Action, analogous to the organizational identifier, then the “search category” of Robertson Figure 9 would be the same as the organizational identifier. However, claim 1 provides that the “organizational identifier corresponds to an organization with which the first user is associated.” Moreover, if the organizational identifier was same as the search request, the act of determining the organizational identifier in response to receiving the search request would be redundant, since the search request would be same as the organizational identifier.

For at least the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited sections of Robertson fail to provide any disclosure of the search category, and organizational identifier limitation of independent claims 1, 24 and 47 as amended.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the independent Claims 1, 24, and 47, as amended, and all claims depending therefrom, are not anticipated by Robertson and that they are in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner’s reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections as to those claims, and an indication of the allowability of the same.

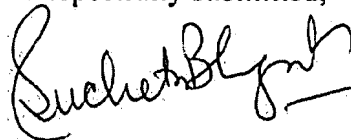
The Office Action takes Official Notice asserting that a user entering an organizational identifier to which the user belongs as being "well known". (Office Action, p. 3) Applicants respectfully note that claim 1 does not claim a user entering an organizational identifier. In contrast, claim 1 recites determining the first user's organizational identifier in response to receiving the search request. "Determining", as disclosed in the Application, involves automatically looking up the user's organizational identifier, which is not the same as having a user enter such information. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the Official Notice of a user entering an organizational identifier does not anticipate the claimed determining an organizational identifier. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the Official Notice fails to take the Official Notice of the claimed determining an organizational identifier.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application and the claims therein are believed to be in condition for allowance without any further examination and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5093.

If any extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) are required in order for this submission to be considered timely, Applicants hereby petitions for such extensions. Applicants also hereby authorizes that any fees due for such extensions or any other fee associated with this submission, as specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17, be charged to Deposit Account 502306.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sucheta S. Bhagat', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sucheta S. Bhagat
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 58,649
Telephone: (512) 439-5086
Facsimile: (512) 439-5099